CENTERING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY VOICES, GETTING TO THE ROOT OF RESEARCH, AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE “ARCTIC TOGETHER” THROUGH SHARING STORY

This Episode

Co-Production of Knowledge
Equity in Research
Visual & Musical Artists
Being In Relationship with Community

Podcast Website

Navigating the New Arctic Community Office
The *Arctic Together* podcast is a podcast series that centers Indigenous community voices, shares *Navigating the New Arctic* (NNA) community stories, and highlights different approaches to issues and solutions in Arctic-based research. The NNA-CO Community Extension Office at Alaska Pacific University is the content developer and host of the *Arctic Together* podcast, and aims to build awareness, partnerships, opportunities, and resources for collaboration. From local to international scales, to supporting the next generation of Arctic researchers, *Arctic Together* offers stories and wisdom towards a more holistic understanding of the Arctic.

*Arctic Together* is a quarterly series that features intersections of visual artists or musicians and research and science communication perspectives. Special guests will share gifts of wisdom, knowledge and lessons learned within their respective journeys through storytelling or dialogue. Each episode in the series will focus on topics such as co-production of knowledge, education and outreach, policy or data sovereignty, and will highlight rotating geographic regions, countries, peoples, and spaces within the Arctic. It is our hope to improve communications and dissemination about research processes or project-specific stories, and share personal testimonies about what it means to be in relationship with one another — to be *Arctic Together*.

— Produced by *Arctic Together* Co-Hosts
KARLI TYANCE HASSELL & JAMES TEMTE
NNA-CO Community Extension Office
Alaska Pacific University
Kendrick Hautala is from the village of Kuiggluk (Kwethluk) on the Lower Kuskokwim River. He is an Alumni of Mt. Edgecumbe High School. He graduated from University of Alaska Fairbanks with a Bachelors of Science in Natural Resource Management and a Minor in Fisheries. Kendrick is currently pursing a Master of Science in Fisheries at University of Alaska Fairbanks' College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the Troth Yeddha’ Campus. When he is not working or going to school, you can find him hunting and fishing with family and friends.

Dr. Jessica Black is Gwich’in from the villages of Gwichyaa Zhee (Ft. Yukon) and Toghotthele (Nenana), Alaska. Dr. Black currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Alaska Native Studies, Rural Development and Tribal Governance at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dr. Black received her bachelor’s degree in Social Work (BSW) at UAF and her master’s degree and PhD in Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Her dissertation and current research examine the relationship between governance and well-being among Alaska Native peoples, especially as it pertains to Tribal Stewardship and Cultural Connectivity. She resides in Fairbanks, Alaska with her family, however, she frequently returns home to Gwichyaa Zhee to hunt, fish, gather and engage in other, important cultural practices.
Apay'uq Moore is a Yup'ik artist from Bristol Bay, AK. The self-reliant nature of her family is evident in the work and lifestyle she pursues. Living off grid with her two children in Aleknagik, she follows in the inspirational footsteps of her lineage. She was taught to help herself, and if able-bodied, to generously help others. This mindset, passed down from generation to generation, has built multi-talented descendants and is responsible for the success of her artwork and way of living. Though her hands hold the tools, she knows her mind and work are guided by thousands of years of ancestors and the family that instilled the Yup'ik values of today. Her paintings illuminate the best of Yup'ik people, showcasing the joy in hard work, while mastering the art of living off the land.
Stephen Qacung Blanchett is a performing artist, a culture-bearer, and an art and culture educator. Qacung is a founding member of the Alaska Native tribal funk & Inuit soul group, Pamyua. In addition to his nearly 30-year performance career, Qacung has a passion to work for Alaska Native people. He has served in leadership roles with the Alaska Native Heritage Center, First Alaskans Institute, Pamyua Inc., and other arts, culture, and community service entities. He is currently the Cultural Heritage & Education Manager for Tlingit & Haida. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Western Arts Alliance and chairs the Advancing Indigenous Performance program. He also serves as a Board of Directors with the Alaska Humanities Forum. In 2022, Qacung was mentioned as The Kennedy Centers Next 50. This new initiative celebrates cultural leadership with 50 trailblazing leaders and organizations guiding society and the next generation into the future. He is a 2022 United States Artist Fellow and is a recipient of the 2021 Native Arts and Culture Foundation SHIFT-Transformative Change and Indigenous Arts award. He is a 2019 Dance/USA Fellowship recipient, a 2019 & 2016 recipient of the Rasmuson Foundation’s Artist Fellowship, and a 2015 National Artist Fellowship recipient through the Native Arts and Culture Foundation. Qacung is a global citizen whose Indigenous and black roots guide his leadership and artistic vision.
Haliehana Alaġum Ayagaa Stepetin is Unangaš from the Qigigun Tribe and was born and raised in her homelands/waters in the village of Akutan, Alaska. She weaves together her transdisciplinary experience, deeply shaped by the Unangaš subsistence cosmology that she was raised within, as an artist, scholar, Unangaš dancer, choreographer, performance, poet, and activist. Haliehana is a PhD Candidate in Native American Studies at the University of California Davis with a designated emphasis in Studies in Performance and Practice. She has a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies from the University of Washington Bothell (2018) and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a concentration on Russia (2016) from the University of Alaska Anchorage, where she serves as Instructor of Alaska Native Studies. Her research engages Native North Pacific perspectives on food sovereignty and environmental justice in dialogue with Unangaš subsistence performance(s) and sustainability protocols as interventions to the ongoing climate crisis.

Margaret Anamaq Rudolf is an interdisciplinary Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She is Inupiaq, with her family originally from King Island. With a background in permafrost and engineering, her dissertation work is looking at co-production of knowledge with Alaska Native communities in climate change research. She is one of three Indigenous liaisons for the Food Sovereignty Working Group, focused on Indigenous engagement and inclusion within the Arctic observing system. She is also working with the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy on co-production of knowledge evaluation and metrics of success, as well as the roles of boundary spanners.

"Subsistence is a unique word that is often political. Subsistence is something that is so personal and culturally grounded. It is our whole way of life that encompasses our cultural teachings and values. It is a way to live in sustainability through survivance and thriving."

- Haliehana Stepetin
Podcast Show Notes

Click the links below for more information & resources shared by guests.

- Tamamta Program Fall 2021 Seminar Series
- Advancing Indigenous Performance by the Western Arts Alliance
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge Talks, by Margaret Rudolf & Anika Pinzner, Geophysical Institute & International Arctic Research Center
- Indigenous-led Food Sovereignty Working Group

Further Reading & Resources

- Conducting Research with Northern Communities Resources (ARCUS)

Featured Music

From the album *Miu* by Qacung

Further Reading & Resources

- Conducting Research with Northern Communities Resources (ARCUS)
As a mom of young kids, my time has passed. Whatever we can fill their [youth] minds with now, their energy is going to be so much more influential than mine in the future.

- Apay'uq Moore, Artist

on the sacredness of children & leaving a legacy

Navigating the New Arctic Community Office

The Navigating the New Arctic Community Office (NNA-CO) builds awareness, partnerships, opportunities, and resources for collaboration and equitable knowledge generation within, between, and beyond the research projects funded by the National Science Foundation’s NNA Initiative. The office builds capacity in early career researchers and provides unique opportunities to inspire and engage a wide audience toward a more holistic understanding of the Arctic—its natural environment, built environment, and diverse cultures and communities.

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For more information, visit nna-co.org.